

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for a first communication device of maintaining an up-to-date configuration description of a second communication device in a network, said first device comprises a storage medium and is adapted for storing on said storage medium configuration descriptions being uniquely identified by configuration identifiers, the method comprises the acts of:

receiving from the second device information comprising a first configuration identifier uniquely identifying a first configuration of the second device,

checking whether a first configuration description identified by the received first configuration identifier is already stored on the storage medium, if said first configuration description is already stored on the storage medium, setting the first

configuration description corresponding to the received first configuration identifier as an active configuration description of the second device,

if said first configuration description identified by the first configuration identifier is not stored on the storage medium, requesting and receiving the first configuration description from said second device, storing said first configuration description together with said first configuration identifier on said storage medium and setting the first configuration description corresponding to the received configuration identifier as the active configuration first description of the second device,

storing a second configuration description identified by a second configuration identifier received from the second device so that the storage medium of the first device includes the first configuration description and the second configuration description of the second device associated with the first configuration identifier and the second configuration identifier, respectively,
receiving from the second device a leave message,
in response to the leave message, changing the configuration description to inactive without deleting from the storage medium

~~the configuration description corresponding to the configuration identifier~~

receiving from the second device the second configuration identifier, and

in response to the received second configuration identifier,
changing the second configuration description to active while the
second device continues to be connected to the network and
continues to offer services to the network with reduced
interruption.

2. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1,
wherein the unique configuration identifier comprises an
identification of the second device.

3. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1,
wherein the configuration description comprises an identification
of services offered by the second device.

4. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1,
wherein the configuration identifier is a device specific

configuration number uniquely identifying the configuration of the device.

5. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the configuration descriptions on the storage medium, which have not been accessed for the longest time period, are deleted from the storage medium.

6. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the second device generates the configuration identifier by deriving it from the configuration description using fingerprinting.

7. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the first device is a control point in an UPnP network, and the second device is an UPnP device being part of the UPnP network.

8. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for maintaining an up-to-date configuration description of a second communication device in a network, said apparatus comprises a storage medium and is adapted

for storing on said storage medium configuration descriptions being uniquely identified by configuration identifiers, the apparatus comprises:

means for receiving from the second device information comprising a first configuration identifier uniquely identifying a first configuration of the second device,

means for checking whether the first configuration description identified by the received first configuration identifier is already stored on the storage medium,

means for, if said first configuration description identified by the first configuration identifier is stored on the storage medium, setting the first configuration description corresponding to the received configuration identifier as an active configuration description of the second device,

means for, if said first configuration description identified by the first configuration identifier is not stored on the storage medium, requesting and receiving the first configuration description from said second device, storing said first configuration description together with said first configuration identifier on said storage medium and setting the first

configuration description corresponding to the received first configuration identifier as the active configuration description of the second device,

~~means for receiving from the second device a leave message,~~
and

~~means for changing, in response to the leave message, the configuration description stored in the storage medium to inactive, without deleting from the storage medium the configuration description corresponding to the configuration identifier~~

means for receiving from the second device a second configuration identifier, and in response to the received second configuration identifier, changing the second configuration description to active while the second device continues to be connected to the network and continues to offer services to the network with reduced interruption.

9. (Currently Amended) An UPnP control point for maintaining an up-to-date configuration description of a UPnP device in a network, said control point comprises a storage medium and is adapted for storing on said storage medium configuration

descriptions being uniquely identified by configuration identifiers, the control point comprises:

means for receiving from the UPnP device information comprising a first configuration identifier uniquely identifying a first configuration of the UPnP device,

means for checking whether the first configuration description identified by the received first configuration identifier is already stored on the storage medium,

means for, if said first configuration description identified by the first configuration identifier is stored on the storage medium, setting the first configuration description corresponding to the received first configuration identifier as an active configuration description of the UPnP device,

means for, if said first configuration description identified by the first configuration identifier is not stored on the storage medium, requesting and receiving the first configuration description from said UPnP device, storing said first configuration description together with said first configuration identifier on said storage medium and setting the first configuration description

corresponding to the received configuration identifier as the active configuration description of the UPnP device,

~~means for receiving from the UPnP device a leave message, and means for changing, in response to the leave message, the configuration description stored in the storage medium to inactive, without deleting from the storage medium the configuration description corresponding to the configuration identifier~~

means for receiving from the UPnP device a second configuration identifier, and in response to the received second configuration identifier, changing the second configuration description to active while the UPnP device continues to be connected to the network and continues to offer services to the network with reduced interruption.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising the acts of:

receiving an announcement from the second device including the configuration identifier; and

setting active the configuration description stored in the storage medium without downloading the configuration description.

11. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 8, further comprising:

means for receiving an announcement from the second device including the configuration identifier; and

means for setting active the configuration description stored in the storage medium without downloading the configuration description.

12. (Previously Presented) The UPnP control point of claim 9, further comprising:

means for receiving an announcement from the UPnP device including the configuration identifier; and

means for setting active the configuration description stored in the storage medium without downloading the configuration description.